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OF COUNSEL
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May 27, 2003

Honorable James H. Welsh
Commissioner of Conservation
State of Louisiana
Post Office Box 44275
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4275

Re: APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

BARATARIA FIELD, Jefferson Parish,
Louisiana.

Dear Sir:

ALPINE EXPLORATION COMPANIES, INC. ("Applicant"), hereby respectfully applies for a public hearing to consider evidence relative to the issuance of an Order pertaining to the following matters relating to the Barataria Field, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana:

1. To find that within the Areas of Review shown on the attached plat there is no hydrocarbon bearing zone currently producing.
2. To find with respect to the Areas of Review shown on the attached plat: (a) that the only intervals lying above the subsea depth of 11,350 feet which have been proven capable of hydrocarbon production are the 9550' Sand and the 9700' Sand; and (b) that both the 9550' Sand and the 9700' Sand are no longer commercially productive of hydrocarbons.

3. To consider such other matters as may be appropriate.

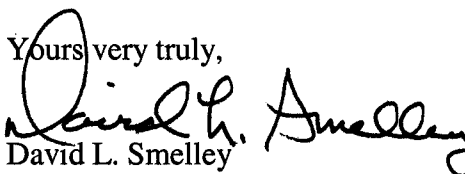
As used herein, the 9550' Sand is that sand occurring between the measured depths of 9550 feet and 9582 feet in the Chevron USA Inc.--Fleming Plantation U32 No. 2 Well, located in Section 1, Township 16 South, Range 23 East, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana; and the 9700' Sand is that sand occurring between the measured depths of 9690 feet and 9726 feet in the Canlan Oil Company (formerly Chevron)--VUA Fleming Plantation U32 No. 1 Well, located in Section 1, Township 16 South, Range 23 East, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

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Pursuant to the Revised Rules of Procedure, Applicant has made a reasonable effort to obtain the names and addresses of all Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties to whom notice of this application is being sent and has attached hereto a list of the names and addresses of such parties. A copy of this letter and of the attached plat is being sent to the District Manager of the Lafayette District of the Office of Conservation and to each of the Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties, as shown on the attached list.

Applicant will provide for posting of a copy of the Legal Notice of this hearing and the enclosed plat at a prominent place in the area affected and will cause publication of the Legal Notice in a newspaper published in the general area of Barataria Field, all in accordance with the Revised Rules of Procedure. Furthermore, Applicant will mail a copy of the Legal Notice to all Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties promptly upon receipt of the Legal Notice from the Commissioner.

Finally, enclosed herewith is our check payable to the Office of Conservation covering the application fee.

Yours very truly,

David L. Smelley

-- Attorney for Alpine Exploration Companies, Inc.

DLS:dp
Enclosures

cc: Mr. Richard Hudson (w/encls.)
Mr. Joe B. Adams (w/encls.)
Interested Owners, Represented Parties
and Interested Parties (w/plat only)

